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EUROPEAN BRIEF 142-75-4

L. PORTUGAL: PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AND THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER, ADMIRAL AZEVEDO, ARE TRYING TO OVERCOME THE LATEST OBSTACLE TO FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT: THE COMMUNIST REFUSAL TO COOPERATE. 4

THE MILITARY LEADERS, REPORTEDLY INCLUDING MAJOR MELO

ANTUNES, HAVE CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF

THE SOCIALIST, COMMUNIST, AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES TOWARD

FORMING A "NATIONAL UNITY" GOVERNMENT. THEY WANT TO AVOID A

FORMAL COALITION AGREEMENT BUT TO ATTRACT ENOUGH SUPPORT AND

PARTICIPATION FROM CIVILIANS TO GIVE THE NEW GOVERNMENT A

CHANCE OF DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH PORTUGAL'S GROWING ECONOMIC

AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. THEIR TASK HAS BEEN GREATLY COMPLICATED,

HOWEVER, SINCE THE COMMUNISTS LAUNCHED A HARSH PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

AGAINST THE CENTER-LEFT POPULAR DEMOCRATS. THE COMMUNISTS CAMPAIGN

APPEARS TO BE A STALLING TACTIC DESIGNED TO GET THEM BETTER

TERMS FOR JOINING THE GOVERNMENT.Y

SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED TO DATE:
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A POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY SAID ON THURSDAY THAT AZEVEDO, COSTA GOMES, AND THE ANTUNES FACTION HAD AGREED TO THE CONDITIONS OF HIS PARTY AND THE SOCIALISTS FOR JOINING THE GOVERNMENT. MILITARY LEADERS MET TWICE ON THURSDAY WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND THE SOCIALISTS, THE COMMUNISTS APPARENTLY WERE PUTTING UP STIFF RESISTANCE TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE OTHER TWO PARTIES. THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC SOURCE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD EVENTUALLY

COSTA GOMES ALSO PRESIDED OVER A MEETING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ON THURSDAY, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS THE NEW GOVERNMENT, EFFORTS BY PRO-COMMUNISTS TO STIR UP TROUBLE IN THE MILITARY, AND THE UNFAVORABLE REACTION TO THE DECREE LAW IT PASSED ON MONDAY RESTRICTING PUBLICATION OF THE MILITARY'S POLITICAL VIEWS-Y

AGREE TO ENTER THE GOVERNMENT.Y

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THE DECREE LAW AS AN ABRIDGEMENT OF PRESS FREEDOM, BUT SOME IN THE MEDIA HAVE EVEN DISOBEYED IT. A MEETING CALLED BY JOURNALISTS TO FIGHT THE NEW LAW WAS HELD ON THURSDAY AT THE LEFTIST INDEPENDENT DAILY A CAPITAL. Y

ON THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA, MEANWHILE, A SERIOUS THREAT TO
LISBON'S AUTHORITY APPEARS TO BE GATHERING STEAM. ON WEDNESDAY,
THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT THERE THREATENED TO EXPEL FROM THE
ISLAND ANYONE OPPOSED TO INDEPENDENCE UNLESS THEY DECLARED THEIR
SUPPORT BY MIDNIGHT, SEPTEMBER 17. THE LIST OF EXPELLEES INCLUDES
THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PORTUGUESE FORCES IN MADEIRA, ALL
CONTINENTAL OFFICERS STATIONED THERE, AND ALL COMMUNIST PARTY
MEMBERS. {CONFIDENTIAL}

PORTUGAL-AZORES: GAINS BY THE ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES IN PORTUGAL, COUPLED WITH IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR LOCAL AUTONOMY, NOW SEEM TO HAVE LESSENED THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN ARMED REBELLION IN THE AZORES.Y

THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT HAS BEEN SPURRED ON PRINCIPALLY

BY FEARS OF THE POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE AZOREANS THAT A COMMUNIST

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TAKE-OVER IN LISBON WOULD LEAD TO COMMUNIST DOMINATION OF THE ISLANDS THEMSELVES. IN RECENT WEEKS, LOCAL COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY ATTACKED AND THEIR PROPERTY HAS BEEN DESTROYED. SOME HAVE EVEN BEEN DEPORTED, OSTENSIBLY FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY.

ASIDE FROM THE ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENT, OTHER FACTORS
FUELING THE INDEPENDENCE DRIVE HAVE BEEN THE AZOREANS' DESIRE
FOR GREATER AUTONOMY, ECONOMIC INEQUITIES BETWEEN THE ISLANDS
AND PORTUGAL, AND A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF AZOREAN PROBLEMS
IN LISBON.Y

SUCH TRADITIONAL DISCONTENT COULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY OVERCOME
IF THE RECENTLY FORMED GOVERNING JUNTA, MADE UP OF PROMINENT
AZOREANS, IS ALLOWED TO FUNCTION WITHOUT UNDUE INTERFERENCE
FROM THE MAINLAND. THE JUNTA, WHICH IS HEADED BY THE LOCALLY
POPULAR AND POLITICALLY SKILLFUL MILITARY GOVERNOR, GENERAL
ALTINO DE MAGALHAIES, HAS BEEN ASKED TO SET UP A NEW PERMANENT
GOVERNMENT FOR THE ARCHIPELAGO. IT HAS BEEN GIVEN A GENEROUS
BUDGET, WHICH SHOULD EFFECTIVELY HELP TO COUNTERACT CHARGES
OF ECONOMIC NEGLECT. {CONFIDENTIAL}}

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USSR-UN: MOSCOW HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ITS ANNUAL SHOWCASE DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A DRAFT TREATY BANNING ALL TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ONE KEY PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE IS TO EMBARRASS THE CHINESE.Y

AS WITH PREVIOUS SOVIET PROPOSALS, MOSCOW AVOIDS MAKING ANY SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS. ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS WOULD BE BANNED, AND VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WOULD BE BY "NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS" RATHER THAN BY AN INTERNATIONAL BODY. EXEMPTED FROM THE BAN WOULD BE "PEACEFUL" UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. STATES WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD CONDUCT "PEACEFUL" EXPLOSIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, WHILE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES WOULD NEGOTIATE A NEW ACCORD TO COVER THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE TREATY WOULD NOT COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES, INCLUDING CHINA AND FRANCE, HAD AGREED. FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD HAVE NO TIME LIMIT; ANY SIGNATORY WOULD BE ABLE TO WITHDRAW IF IT FELT THE TREATY CONFLICTED WITH ITS "HIGHER INTERESTS."Y

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MOSCOW OBVIOUSLY IS FOLLOWING THE SAME PROPAGANDA ROUTE

IT TOOK WITH PROPOSALS FOR A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (1971).

A PERMANENT BAN ON THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (1972). A REDUCTION

OF MILITARY BUDGETS (1973). AND BANS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION

(1974). ITS LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER NUCLEAR STATES

BEFORE ANNOUNCING ITS LATEST PROPOSAL AND THE FOREORDAINED

OPPOSITION OF CHINA AND FRANCE SHOW THAT MOSCOW EXPECTS NO

SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SUBJECT. (CONFIDENTIAL)4

4. USSR: THE REGIME HAS RECENTLY REMOVED A LOOPHOLE FROM THE SO-CALLED "PARASITE" LAW, WHICH WILL FA-CILITATE CONVICTION OF PERSONS DEEMED TO HAVE NO STEADY EMPLOYMENT. THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THE CHANGE REMAINS TO BE SEEN; THE "PARASITE" LAW IS BUT ONE OF AN ARRAY OF MEASURES USED TO CONTROL THE TROUBLESOME DISSIDENT AND MON-DISSIDENT FRINGES OF SOVIET SOCIETY—AND MOST OF THESE MEASURES ARE APPLIED ARBITRARILY. PLUGGING THE LOOPHOLE, HOWEVER, DOES IMPROVE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE LEGAL THREAT,

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AND COULD THUS BE ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF MEASURES

DESIGNED--AMONG OTHER THINGS--TO DESCOURAGE SOVIET

CITIZENS FROM APPLYING FOR EMIGRATION. THOSE WHO

DO APPLY ROUTINELY LOSE THEIR JOBS.4

THE NEW LAW, PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 14, ALTERS

ARTICLE 209 OF THE RUSSIAN REPUBLIC'S CRIMINAL CODE

BY ADDING A PROVISION THAT ANY PERSON "LEADING A

PARASITICAL WAY OF LIFE FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD OF

TIME" IS LIABLE TO A ONE YEAR SENTENCE IN JAIL OR

LABOR CAMP. THE NET EFFECT OF THIS PROVISION, TO
GETHER WITH SOME EARLIER CHANGES IN THE LANGUAGE

OF THE RELEVANT ARTICLE, IS THAT PERSONS CHARGED

WITH PARASITISM CAN NO LONGER TAKE REFUGE IN THE

FAILURE OF THE PROSECUTION TO DEMONSTRATE WILLFUL

REFUSAL OF AN ORDER TO ACCEPT WORK ASSIGNMENTS.

MANY SUCH PERSONS OFTEN ACCEPTED ASSIGNED JOBS FOR

A SHORT TIME AND THEN QUIT, THUS BUYING TIME BE
FORE REPEATING THE CYCLE.Y

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IF DISCOURAGEMENT OF EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS

IS INDEED ONE OF THE NEW LAW'S GOALS, IT MAY GO

HAND IN HAND WITH THE LEGISLATION PUBLISHED IN

MAY THAT IMPOSED A HIGHER TAX ON CASH REMITTANCES

FROM ABROAD (STAFF NOTES JULY 3). THE LATTER LAW,

EFFECTIVE NEXT JANUARY 1, APPEARS DESIGNED TO

REDUCE THE NET AMOUNT OF EXTERNAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

RECEIVED BY DISSIDENTS, ACTIVISTS, AND OTHERS—

MOSTLY JEWS—WHOSE APPLICATIONS FOR EMIGRATION HAVE

RESULTED IN LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE RECENT AMEND—

MENT TO THE "PARASITE" LAW MAY THUS BE ANOTHER SEG—

MENT OF THE LEGAL CIRCLE BEING DRAWN AROUND THESE

ELEMENTS OF SOVIET SOCIETY. (CONFIDENTIAL)+

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DAY SPEECH ON MONDAY REAFFIRMED SOFIA'S AUTHORITAR—

IAN APPROACH TO DOMESTIC POLICY. IT ALSO PROVIDED

THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION OF CONCERN OVER THE

STATE OF THE ECONOMY. Y

ADDRESSING A GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, TODOROV BEGAN WITH THE USUAL
OBEISANCE TO THE SOVIETS AND ENDICATED SOFIA WOULD
CONTINUE TO FOLLOW IN MOSCOW'S FOOTSTEPS.Y

TODOROV NEVERTHELESS SMOE DEMONS VOROGOT

STEILANOITAN NATIONALISTS

TO THE DISCATISFACTION OF BULGARIAN NATIONALISTS

WITH THE REGIME'S SLAVISHLY PRO-SOVIET STANCE.

TO NOITABEN ON' ENA PROBLEM TO THAT CURRENT POLICIES ARE "NO NATIONATE." HE

ALSO INFLIED THAT THE BULGARIAN PART DELIUMI OZJA

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HOWEVER, TO A LESS-THAN-ROSY ECONOMIC FORECAST. HE

PLACES AT LEAST PARTIAL BLAME ON WESTERN INFLATION,

WHICH SOFIA HAS HERETOFORE MAINTAINED DID NOT AFFECT

ITS DOMESTIC ECONOMY. TODOROV FAILED TO MENTION

THE IMPACT OF HIGHER SOVIET PRICES FOR RAW MATERIALS,

ESPECIALLY OIL. BULGAPIA IS THE ONLY EAST EUROPEAN

COUNTRY THAT HAS NOT ANNOUNCED THE PRICE HIKES WHICH

TOOK EFFECT IN JANUARY, BUT SOME SPOKESMEN HAVE

PRIVATELY PROFESSED NOT TO BE CONCERNED OVER ANY.

POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS.Y

TODOROV AGAIN CALLED FOR GREATER DISCIPLINE IN ORDER TO INCREASE LABOR PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAIN A HIGH RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE REGIME WILL CONTINUE ITS CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE SHIFT WORK TO COMPENSATE FOR THE FIVE-DAY WORKWEEK. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT HIGH-LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS WERE MADE TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY AND PLANNING. ALTHOUGH PRAISING RECENT SUCCESSES, TODOROV ADDED

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THAT SOME PERENNIALLY WEAK SECTORS, SUCH AS HOUSING AND CONSUMER SERVICES, CONTINUE TO BE A "SERIOUS CAUSE OF CONCERN AND ALARM."

THE PREMIER HAD OTHER BAD NEWS FOR THE CONSUMER.

HE STATED THAT "EXAGGERATED CONSUMER ASPIRATIONS AND

PETTY BOURGEOIS ATTITUDES DO NOT BECOME SOCIALISM"-
WORDS THAT SURELY WILL NOT BE MET WITH ENTHUSIASM.

TODOROV MAY BE PREPARING THE PUBLIC FOR A SLOWDOWN

IN THE GROWTH OF CONSUMER GOODS AND FOR POSSIBLE
CONSUMER PRICE RISES.Y

TODOROV PRAISED SOFIA'S "DYNAMIC FOREIGN POLICY"

AND SAID THAT THE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION OF PARTY-STATE

LEADER ZHIVKOV HAS "ENHANCED THE PRESTIGE OF OUR

COUNTRY." ON BULGARIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS, TODOROV'S

REMARKS WERE CONCILIATORY. HE SINGLED OUT ZHIVKOV'S

TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO AT THE HELSINKI

SUMMIT, NOTING THEY WOULD LEAD TO INCREASED BILATERAL

COOPERATION. CONFIDENTIALD E-2 IMPDET.H

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EAST ASIA BRIEF 142-75.4

LAOS: THE COMMUNISTS ARE STEPPING UP THE PRESSURE AGAINST PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND KING SAVANG. THE TWO CLEARLY HAVE NO PLACE IN THE COMMUNIST STATE THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPING IN LAOS SINCE LAST SPRING. THE PATHET PLAO UP TO NOW, HOWEVER, HAVE TRREATED BOTH THE MONARCHY AND SOUVANNA, THEM SYMBOL OF "COALITION" RULE, WITH CIRCUMSPECTION, PERHAPS OUT OF CONCERN THAT ANY EARLY OR ABRUPT MOVES MIGHT NEEDLESSLY DAMAGE THE LAO COMMUNIST REPUTATION ABROAD AND EVEN PROVOKE SOME INTERNAL OPPOSITION. IN ANY CASE, IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY THAT BOTH SOUVANNA AND THE KING WILL BE FORCED FROM THEIR POSTS BY NEXT SPRING IF THEY HAVE NOT RESIGNED EARLIER.Y

IN A BROADCAST ON SEPTEMBER 7. PATHET LAO - CONTROLLED

RADIO VIENTIANE REPORTED THAT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AN AFP

CORRESPONDENT, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA STATED HE WOULD

NOT BE JOINING A NEW GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE "GENERAL ELECTIONS"

SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1. 1976. SOUVANNA INDICATED THAT HE WOULD

RATHER RETIRE AND ADVISE HIS "YOUNGER SUCCESSORS."

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SOUVANNA SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST MAS INDICATED TO FOREIGN
NEWSMEN THAT HE WOULD BRETIRE AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTIONS. BUT HIS
REMARKS RECEIVED LITTLE NOTICE IN THE GOVERNMENT MEDIA. BY REPLAYING
MATHIS LATEST INTERVIEW. THE COMMUNISTS PRESUMABLY HOPE TO MAKE IT
DIFFICULT FOR HIM NOT TO CARRY OUT HIS PROMISE.

SOUVANNA ALMOST CERTAINLY HOPES THAT HIS PALF BROTHER
SOUPHANOUVONG WILL BE THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER. HE MAINTAINS THAT
SOUPHANOUVONG IS MORE OF A "NATIONALIST" THAN A COMMUNIST. THE
PATHET LAO, HOWEVER, HAVE OFFERED FEW HINTS ON THEIR CHOCIE. THE
SELECTION IN ANY CASE WILL HAVE LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE, BECAUSE
REAL POWER WILL REST, AS IT DOES NOW, WITH THE LAO COMMUNIST
PARRTY HEADED BY KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN.Y

THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO WHITTLE AWAY AT THE PRESTIGE OF KING SAVANG IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO FORCE HIS EARLY ABDICATION OR PERHAPS SCRAP THE INSTITUTION OF THE MONARCHY ALTOGETHER. AT A RECENT FESTIVAL IN LUANG PRABANG, THE ROYAL CAPITAL, FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMUNISTS CUT BACK ON SOME OF THE FORMALITIES DESIGNED TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE KING AND ELIMINATED HIS TRADITIONAL DATE: ORIG: UNIT:

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 142-75.4

l. LEMBANON: LEBANESE ARMY UNITS MOVED INTO POSITION BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND ZAGHARTA EARLY ON THURSDAY, EFFECTIVELY ENDING CIVIL UNREST IN NORTHERN LEBANON - A FEW LEFTIST AND MUSLIM POLITICIANS IN TRIPOLI HAVE CRITICIZED THE CABINET'S DECISION TO BRING IN THE ARMY, BUT THE MAJORITY OF MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE AREA APPEAR TO HAVE WELCOMED IT. 4

THE COUNTRY'S MAIN MUSLIM POLITICAL LEADERS, WHO RESIDE IN BEIRUT AND ORDINARILY OPPOSE ANY USE OF THE ARMY FOR INTERNAL SECURITY PURPOSES, HAVE SO FAR WITHHELD COMMENT. THIS IS PARTLY OUT OF DEFERENCE TO KARAMI, WHO HEADS ONE IMPORTANT SUNNI MUSLIM FACTION, BUT IT ALSO REFLECTS THEIR ADMIRATION FOR THE CONCESSIONS HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO WRING FROM LEBANON'S CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN LEADERS.Y

THE CABINET YESTERDAY APPROVED A BILL REORGANIZING THE ARMY TO ESTABLISH THE "COMMAND COUNCIL" PROPOSED BY KARAMI IN A POLICY SPEECH LAST MONTH. ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC, THE COUNCIL PRESUMABLY WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES DATE: ORIG:

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OF LEBANON'S MAJOR RELIGIOUS SECTS AND HAVE THE FINAL WORD ON SUCH MATTERS AS ARMY DEPLOYMENTS AND PROMOTIONS. LOSS OF THESE PREROGATIVES WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE POWER OF THE ARMY COMMANDER, WHO BY CUSTOM IS ALWAYS A MARONITE CHRISTIAN.

CHRISTIAN GROUPS IN PARLIAMENT HAVE IN THE PAST STRONGLY
OPPOSED PROPOSALS TO REORGANIZE THE ARMY. KARAMI'S POSITION HAS
BEEN STRENGTHENED CONSIDERABLY BY HIS HANDLING OF THE CURRENT
CRISIS, HOWEVER, AND HIS PROPOSALS MAY NOW WIN GREATER BACKING
FROM CENTRIST CHRISTIAN POLITICIANS HOPING TO AVOID ANOTHER
ROUND OF VIOLENCE.4

IN RETURN FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT, MUSLIM
LEADERS APPARENTLY ARE DEMANDING ALSO THAT THE CHRISTIANS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING OF 12 MUSLIMS ON THE TRIPOLI-BEIRUT
HIGHWAY LAST SUNDAY BE TURNED OVER TO AUTHORITIES. CHRISTIAN
LEADERS SO FAR HAVE REFUSED TO MEET THIS DEMAND.4

LEFTIST LEADERS WHO FOLLOW KAMAL JUMBLATT, HEAD OF THE PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY, MET ON THURSDAY AND REPORTEDLY WILL ASSEMBLE AGAIN TODAY TO CONSIDER THEIR REACTION TO THE

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ADVOCATING ARMED RESISTANCE.Y

ZUHAYR MUHSIN, HEAD OF THE SYRIAN-CONTROLLED SAIGA FEDAYEEN GROUP AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION MILITARY DEPARTMENT, ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S USE OF THE ARMY. THE DECISION TO DO SO, HE SAID, IS A "PURELY DOMESTIC QUESTION."4

LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN RADICALS BACKED BY IRAQ HAVE CALLED FOR A GENERAL STRIKE ON MONDAY TO PROTEST DEPLOYMENT OF THE ARMY. THEIR CALL IS NOT LIKELY TO BE HEEDED, HOWEVER, UNLESS THE CONTINUING CABINET TALKS ON ARMY REFORM BREAK DOWN. *ECONFIDENTIAL*

2. ETHIOPIA: ADDIS ABABA AND ASMARA ARE REPORTED TO BE TENSE AS THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT PREPARES FOR THE CELEBRATION ON SEPTEMBER 13 OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ITS OUSTER OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE. THE RULING MILITARY COUNCIL HAS ALREADY REINFORCED THE GARRISON IN ASMARA, THE DATE: ORIG: UNIT:

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CAPITAL OF ERITREA PROVINCE, WHERE REBEL SEPARATISTS ARE OPERATING,
AND WILL MAINTAIN MAXIMUM SECURITY BOTH THERE AND IN ADDIS ABABA. Y

ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, THE MILITARY RULERS MAY PROCLAIM
A REPUBLIC—A MOVE FORESHADOWED LAST MARCH WHEN THEY REVOICED THEIR
EARLIER APPOINTMENT OF HAILE SELASSIE'S SON AS KING. THERE ARE ALSO
REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL DROP THE "PROVISIONAL" FROM ITS
TITLE, A MOVE THAT MIGHT SPARK OPPOSITION FROM STUDENTS AND OTHERS
WHO WANT A RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. WHATEVER IS ANNOUNCED, MAJOR
MENGISTU AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL ATNAFU, WHO EMERGED DURING THE
PAST YEAR AS THE KEY COUNCIL MEMBERES, WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE
TO WIELD EFFECTIVE POWER. Y

SOME TOP LEVEL MILITARY OFFICERS AND DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS

MAY BE RETIRED THIS WEEKEND—IN PART TO PROVIDE JOB OPENINGS FOR

AMBITIOUS YOUNG OFFICERS.

ILLEGIB

ON SEPTEMBER 11 THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD RELEASED AND AMNESTIED 55 POLITICAL PRISONERS, MOST OF WHOM WERE FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE FATE OF THE REMAINING PRISONERS IS NOT CLEAR. ON SEPTEMBER 12 THE GOVERNMENT SAID IT HAD NO INTENTION

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OF EXECUTING OTHER PRISONERS WITHOUT TRE	IAL. THE GOVERNM	TENT HAS
MOVED THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL	FAMILY, PRINCI	PALLY
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QUARTERS, BUT PUBLICALLY DENIED ANY INTE	ENTION TO EXECUT	TE THEM.
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 142-75.4

//CHILE: IN A CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 11 MARKING THE SECOND
ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY TAKE-OVER, PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET
DECLARED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PARTIALLY EASE THE STATE OF SIEGE,
BUT HE REAFFIRMED ITS INTENTION TO RESTRICT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. MOST
OF THE SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO REITERATING THE REGIME'S MORAL
RIGHTEOUSNESS, ITS FIERCE OPPOSITION TO MARXISM, AND ITS DETERMINATION TO STICK WITH A HARD LINE.//Y

AFFAIRS. THE ONLY NOTEWORTHY INNOVATION WAS A PROPOSAL TO CREATE A "COUNCIL OF STATE" COMPOSED OF FORMER PRESIDENTS AND OTHER PROMINENT CITIZENS TO ADVISE THE JUNTA ON MAJOR QUESTIONS. WHILE THIS WOULD SEEM TO OPEN THE DOOR TO COOPERATION WITH KEY POLITICIANS SUCH AS FORMER PRESIDENT EDUARDO PREI, LEADER OF THE LARGE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE ODDS ARE AGAINST THE MOVE YOWARD A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE. FREI REPORTEDLY FORESEES THE EVENTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOME FORM OF COOPERATION WITH THE ARMED FORCES, BUT HE IS PROBABLY HOPING THAT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WILL FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON ITS

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EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE ADVISERS AND PERHAPS ALTER THE JUNTA LEADER-SHIP-//Y

//THE PRESIDENT'S STRONG DISTRUST OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND HIS
INDIRECT CRITICISM OF THEM IN MIS SPEECH SEEM TO SHOW THAT THERE
HAS NOT BEEN ANY REAL SHIFT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITHMAN
ATTITUDE OR IN ITS TENDENCY TO EQUATE ALL OPPOSITION WITH SUBVERSION.
ACTUALLY. THE PROPORAL IS MORE MIKELY TO BE A PUBLIC RELATIONS GAMBIT
THAN A FORTHRIGHT STEP TOWARD GREATER POLITICAL TOLERANCE.//Y

//PINOCHET'S DECISEEN TO REDUCE THE STATE OF SIEGE MAY ALSO
BE A LARGELY EMPTY GESTURE. THE DECISION WILL ALLOW SOME REVIEW
AUTHORITY MY CIVIL COURTS. BUT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE IMPACT UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT CHOOSES TO ABIDE BY DECREES
MORE CLOSELY THAN IT HAS IN THE PAST. THERE HAS BEEN A REPEATED
TEMBENCY TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY WHILE THE SECURITY FORCES IGNORE THE
LETTER AS WELL AS THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW. THERE WAS NO NEW WORD ON
THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.//Y

//FOR THE MOST PART THE PRESIDENT DUELLED ON HIS NOW STANDARD THERE THAT CHILE STANDS VIRTUALLY ALONE IN ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST

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MONOLITHIC WORLD COMMUNISM. THE US EMBASSY OBSERVED THAT HIS GENERALLY LACKLUSTER STATEMENTS FOUND A LESS ENTHUSIESTIC RECEPTION THAN LAST YEAR. THE RELATIVELY MINOR MODIFICATIONS HE PROPOSED WILL NOT GO FAR TOWARD STAISFYING CHILEANS WHO HAD HOPED FOR GREATER POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION AND A MORE HUMANISTIC ECONOMIC POLICY. NOR WILL THEY DO MUCH TO BOLSTER CHILE'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.//Y

//ALTHOUGH PINOCHET SAID THE INTERNAL UNITY OF THE JUNTA WAS "LIKE GRANITE." WE BELIEVE THAT GENERAL LEIGH. THE AIR FORCE MEMBER OF THE JUNTA. IS UNLIKELY TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S HARD-LINE STANCE. MORE PRICTION OVER POLICYMAKING SEEMS INEVITABLE. (SECRET HO FOREIGH DISSEND//E-2 IMPDET.4)

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